

Lineage and Honors History  
of the  
**556 Test and Evaluation Squadron (ACC)**

**Lineage.** Constituted 15 Photographic Mapping Squadron on 9 Jun 1942. Activated on 20 Jun 1942. Redesignated: 15 Photographic Squadron (Heavy) on 6 Feb 1943; 15 Combat Mapping Squadron on 21 Jan 1944; 15 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron on 31 Aug 1944. Inactivated on 28 Oct 1945. Redesignated 15 Reconnaissance Squadron (Photographic) on 29 Apr 1947. Activated on 19 May 1947. Inactivated on 3 Dec 1947. Disbanded on 8 Oct 1948. Consolidated (19 Sep 1985) with the 556 Reconnaissance Squadron, which was constituted, and activated, on 15 May 1968. Organized on 1 Jul 1968. Inactivated on 30 Jun 1972. Consolidated unit redesignated 556 Tactical Intelligence Squadron but remained inactive. Redesignated 556 Test and Evaluation Squadron on 16 Jan 2008. Activated on 15 Feb 2008.

**Assignments.** 3 Photographic (later Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping, later Photographic) Group, 20 Jun 1942 (attached to 5 Photographic Group from 21 Nov 1943); 5 Photographic (later Reconnaissance) Group, 21 Jan 1944-28 Oct 1945. 67 Reconnaissance Group, 19 May 1947; 10 Reconnaissance Group, 24 Jul-3 Dec 1947. 347 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1968; 6100 Air Base Wing, 15 May 1971; 475 Air Base Wing, 1 Nov 1971-30 Jun 1972. 53 Test and Evaluation Group, 15 Feb 2008-.

**Stations.** Colorado Springs, CO, 20 Jun-13 Aug 1942; Membury, England, 7 Sep 1942; Steeple Morden, England, 27 Oct-21 Nov 1942; La Senia, Algeria, 6 Dec 1942 (A flight of air echelon arrived Tafaraoui, Algeria, 18 Nov 1942, and moved to Algiers, Algeria, 27 Nov 1942; Band C flights of air echelon at Colorado Springs to 12 Oct 1943 and Will Rogers Field, OK, 14 Oct 1943-21 Jan 1944); Algiers, Algeria, 25 Dec 1942; Le Kroub,

Algeria, 5 Jun 1943; La Marsa, Tunisia, 28 Jun 1943 (detachments operated from Le Kroub, Algeria, to 14 Jul 1943, and from Grottaglie, Italy, after 4 Oct 1943); Grottaglie, Italy, Nov 1943; Bari, Italy, 28 Dec 1943-Oct 1945; Camp Kilmer, NJ, 26-28 Oct 1945. Langley Field, VA, 19 May 1947; Lawson Field, GA, 8 Sep 1947; Pope Field, NC, 1 Oct-3 Dec 1947. Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1972. Creech AFB, NV, 15 Feb 2008-.

**Commanders.** 2 Lt John M. Noble Jr., 20 Jun 1942; Maj Wayne E. Thurman, 17 Jul 1942; Capt Charles M. McDermott, 13 Aug 1942; Maj Wayne E. Thurman, 1 Oct 1942; Capt Leon W. Gray, 6 Jun 1943; Capt Oscar M. Blomquist, 12 Jul 1943; 1 Lt Richard H. Burnor, 21 Nov 1943; Capt Joseph E. Terrett, 14 Jan 1944; Capt Horace H. Myers, 10 Jul 1944; Capt Exum F. Bullard, Sep 1944; Maj Virgil A. Dinneen, 8 Dec 1944-unkn. Unkn, 19 May 1947; Maj James M. Williams, c. Jul-3 Dec 1947. Lt Col Glen W. Statum, 1 Jul 1968; Lt Col C. N. Rice Jr., 26 Aug 1969-30 Jun 1972.

**Aircraft.** In addition to B-17, 1942-1943, P-38/F-4, 1942-1943, and P-38/F-5, 1943-1945, included Potez 540, 1943, and B-17 and B-25, 1943-1944. F-6, 1947. C-130, 1968-1972.

**Operations.** Combat in Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) and European Theater of Operations (ETO), Nov 1942-4 May 1945. Squadron personnel and aircraft deployed to detachment based at Cam Ranh Bay AB, Republic of South Vietnam, which flew combat reconnaissance missions in Southeast Asia (SEA), 1968-1972.

**Service Streamers.** None.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None.

**Campaign Streamers.** *World War II*: Air Offensive, Europe; Tunisia; Sicily; Naples-Foggia; Anzio; Rome-Arno; Normandy; Northern France; Southern France; North Apennines; Rhineland; Central Europe; Po Valley; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

**Decorations.** Distinguished Unit Citation: MTO, 6 Sep 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jul 1968-30 May 1969; 1 Jun 1969-31 May 1970; 30 May 1970-15 Apr 1971; 16 Apr 1971-15 Apr 1972. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, 1 Jul 1968-31 May 1972.

**Lineage, Assignments, Stations, and Honors through** 13 Feb 2008.

**Aircraft, and Operations through** 30 Jun 1972.

**Supersedes** published information contained in: Maurer Maurer (ed.), *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II* (USGPO, 1969).

**Emblem.** Approved on 14 Aug 1969.

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